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December 14, 2007

VIA ELECTRONIC & US MAIL

Ms. Alice Yeh
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 7 – November 2007
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/
Feasibility Study (RI/FS)
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009**

Dear Ms. Yeh:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement.

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- On November 8, 2007, the CPG consultant (ENSR) had a conference call with EPA and MPI to discuss remaining comments pertaining to analytical issues.
- On November 27, 2007, the CPG met with EPA and the Partner Agencies to discuss comments on the revised CPG Fall 2007 Work Plan Addendum and UFP/QAPPS.

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Correspondence

- On November 1, 2007, CPG sent an email that presented several contradictory and inconsistent comments provided by the Partner Agency pertaining to the Sediment Grab Program. The EPA sent an email with responses to CPG questions. CPG sent EPA an e-mail requesting clarification of inconsistencies in EPA comments.
- On November 2, 2007, CPG sent EPA an e-mail indicating that they had some specific questions regarding comments on the analytical portion of the revised CPG 2007 Field Work Plan Addendum.
- On November 2, 2007, EPA sent the CPG an e-mail on scheduling a technical call about analytical issues at the CPG's request.
- On November 2, 2007, EPA sent the CPG an e-mail indicating they were reviewing the request for clarification of EPA comments and would like to know when the remaining responses to comments would be received. The CPG sent EPA an e-mail indicating when they planned to provide a response to comments on the revised CPG Fall 2007 Work Plan Addendum and UFP/QAPPS.
- On November 5, 2007, the CPG submitted information regarding the CPG's proposed Lower Passaic/Newark Bay (LPR/NB) Modeling Team and LPR/NB Modeling Program organization to EPA via e-mail.
- On November 6, 2007, the CPG transmitted response to EPA comments on the Sediment Grab Work Plan.
- On November 8, 2007, the CPG discussed issues related to the revised CPG Fall 2007 Field Work Plan Addendum and UFP/QAPPS in two telephone conversations with EPA representatives.
- On November 13, 2007, EPA sent the CPG confirmation by e-mail that they had received the modeling team deliverable.
- On November 13, 2007, EPA requested that the CPG dates that the CPG could meet and discuss the Partner Agencies comments regarding Data Use Objectives

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- On November 16, 2007, the CPG sent an e-mail confirming that the CPG would suspend work on the Fish Community/Tissue QAPP and the Habitat QAPP and discussing other issues associated with the proposed Fall 2007 sampling effort.

Work

- The CPG received EPA and Partner Agency comments on October 25, 2007 and provided responses on November 1 and 6, 2007. A conference call was held on November 8, 2007 to discuss remaining analytical chemistry issues. Changes to the Sediment Grab Plan related to analytical chemistry issues were commenced following the call and were substantively completed within the reporting period.
- The CPG received the completed 2007 LPRSA Aerial Photography Survey deliverable from the subcontractor on November 14, 2007 and hand delivered survey copies to EPA and Partner Agencies on November 27, 2007.
- The CPG received the completed 2007 LPR Bathymetry Surveys deliverable from the subcontractor on November 21, 2007 and provided survey data to EPA on November 30, 2007 on a portable external hard drive device.
- The initial MDL study for HRGC/MS method for pesticides was completed during the period. Low level contamination was found; therefore, this study will be repeated in December.
- Post processing of output from the LPR/NB hydrodynamic model progressed. Extraction and visualization of the data is now possible. Further modeling work is on hold while CPG waits on EPA review and response to the CPG's proposed Modeling Team qualifications and resumes.
- Representatives of CPG attended the CARP Model Conference on November 29, 2007. The CPG is conducting a review of the CARP model contents.
- Development of the draft Feasibility Study Work Plan continued.

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(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

No sampling was conducted during the reporting period

The MDL study of the HRGC/MS method for pesticides found sporadic, low-level contamination of three BHC isomers and hexachlorobenzene. As a result, this study will be repeated.

(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

The CPG anticipates conducting the Sediment Grab Program no earlier than February. The CPG will be finalizing sampling plans and the MDL study for review and approval in January 2008. Following approval, the CPG will mobilize, conduct the sampling, and submit the samples to the laboratory.

The CPG has initiated development of 2008 field sampling plans. The development of these plans will commence with a scoping meeting with EPA and Partner Agencies in mid-January.

Coordination meetings will be scheduled with EPA and Partner Agencies on the Reference Plan submitted last September within the next two months.

The CPG will develop and submit a draft Feasibility Study (FS) Work Plan in the next two months.

(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.

The CPG anticipates starting sediment grab sampling no earlier than early February 2008.

The CPG is awaiting EPA approval of the proposed Modeling Team submitted in November. Prior to this approval, no modeling efforts are proceeding other than setting up and running the LPR/NB Hydrodynamic Model and comparing results to published runs and continuing familiarization with the CARP model.

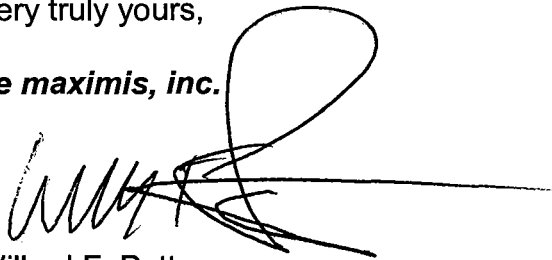
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A revised project schedule will be developed following the Scoping Meeting conducted by the EPA, Partner Agencies and the CPG planned for January 2008

If you have any questions, please contact me or Rob Law at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.



Willard F. Potter
Project Coordinator

cc: Sarah Flanagan, EPA Office of Regional Counsel
William Hyatt, CPG Coordinating Counsel
Tom Taccone, EPA
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Tim Kubiak, USFWS
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